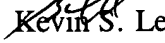


liens 3-11 and page 11, last line of the specification. In contrast, Willmann teaches that the protuberances disappear upon electrolyte addition.

New claim 15 has been added to further define the invention. This claim recites the components that make up the separator, and importantly, uses "consisting essentially of" language. It is well settled that "consisting essentially of" language is interpreted as excluding any element that affects the basic and novel characteristics of the invention. Accordingly, claim 15 excludes the Willmann binder from the separator. If there is no binder, there is nothing to hold the separator in a compressed state, and there is nothing to be degraded by the battery acid upon electrolyte addition.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,


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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

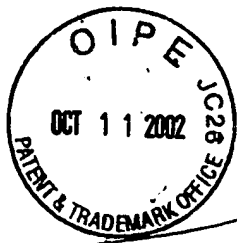
1. (Twice amended) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery ^{OK} having a useful life, said separator comprising a microporous sheet ^{OK} made of synthetic resin having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said at least one
^{OK} elongated vertical rib and said plurality of studs remaining on said sheet during said useful life.

9. (Twice amended) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery having a useful life and containing an electrode plate, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least one side of the sheet, said separator further comprising at least one separate rib which is applied to the electrode plate and
^{OK} located in the center area of the sheet, said plurality of studs and said at least one separate rib remaining on said sheet during said useful life.

13. (Twice amended) A rolled-up battery separator for a storage battery having a useful life, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally
^{OK} comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said plurality of studs and said at least one elongated vertical rib remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said separator being adapted to be cut into pieces for insertion in said storage battery.

15. (Newly added) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery, said separator being a microporous sheet consisting essentially of a homogeneous mixture of 8 to 100 vol. %
^{MM} synthetic resin, 0 to 40 vol % plasticizer and 0 to 92 vol. % insert filler, said sheet having a center area

and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs.



Replacement Sheets

D1 1. (Twice amended) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery having a useful life, said separator comprising a microporous sheet made of synthetic resin having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said at least one elongated vertical rib and said plurality of studs remaining on said sheet during said useful life.

D2 9. (Twice amended) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery having a useful life and containing an electrode plate, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least one side of the sheet, said separator further comprising at least one separate rib which is applied to the electrode plate and located in the center area of the sheet, said plurality of studs and said at least one separate rib remaining on said sheet during said useful life.

D3 13. (Twice amended) A rolled-up battery separator for a storage battery having a useful life, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said plurality of studs and said at least one elongated vertical rib remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said separator being adapted to be cut into pieces for insertion in said storage battery.

D4 15. (Newly added) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery, said separator being a microporous sheet consisting essentially of a homogeneous mixture of 8 to 100 vol.% synthetic resin, 0 to 40 vol.% plasticizer and 0 to 92 vol.% insert filler, said sheet having a center area

and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on at least a first side of the sheet,
characterized in that the separator additionally comprises at least one elongated vertical rib in the
center area of at least said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs.
